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# ENERGIA

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THEME  
GENDER, ENERGY  
AND CLIMATE CHANGE





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**ENERGIA – International Network on Gender and Sustainable Energy** ENERGIA was founded in 1995 by a group of women involved in gender and energy work in developing countries. ENERGIA's objective is to 'engender' energy and 'empower' rural and urban poor women through information exchange, capacity building, research, advocacy and action aimed at strengthening their sustainable energy development.

ENERGIA's approach is to seek to identify needed activities and actions through its membership, and then to encourage, and if possible assist, members and their institutions to undertake decentralised initiatives. ENERGIA News is the principle vehicle for this approach. The focus is on practice, with a conscious effort to interpret and learn from this practice.

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**Cover photo** Women in Senegal making a ceramic liner for improved cook stoves. Improved, more fuel-efficient stoves are good examples of low-emission energy technologies.

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PHOTO: CHETAN SONI



# Gender, Energy and Climate Change

**ENERGIA and the Women's Environment & Development Organization (WEDO) have become strong partners over the past year as co-coordinators of the advocacy team for the Global Gender and Climate Alliance (GGCA). We are pleased to have collaborated on presenting information on gender, energy and climate advocacy (particularly during the UNFCCC negotiations of 2009), with the help of our friends and colleagues in other organisations.**

**GAIL KARLSSON, CATE OWREN and ANA ROJAS**

ENERGIA has seen climate change become a dominant factor in discussions about energy and development policies. Current energy production and consumption patterns are tightly linked to increased levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, and scientists warn of serious risks to people and ecosystems as a result of rising temperatures.

In industrialised countries, there is beginning to be some movement towards energy efficiency, conservation and adoption of low-emission fuels and technologies. However, in many poorer countries it makes less sense to plan for reduced energy use since large numbers of people lack access to even the most basic energy services – especially in rural areas where it is women's work to collect fuel and water, and grow food, as best they can from the land surrounding their villages.

*A girl on her way to collect water in the drought-stricken area near Dhar, India.*

One of the ironies is that these rural women have the least resources to deal with climate change, yet many already have to respond to shifting growing seasons and delayed or erratic rainfall as they struggle to care for their families without electricity, mechanised equipment or access to motorised vehicles.

Women's voices need to be heard in the national and international discussions about climate change and energy policies – especially those concerning mitigation of climate change through investments in clean energy technologies in developing countries, as well as long-term adaptation of communities to changing climate conditions. It would be a major accomplishment if responses to climate change risks could finally catalyse the investments needed to

bring essential energy services to non-served communities.

WEDO previously partnered with ENERGIA and other gender-focused groups in connection with sessions of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development concerning energy and climate change in 2006-2007. WEDO focuses more broadly on the impacts of climate change on women - beyond the gender/energy/climate nexus - including disaster risks and environmental damage. In terms of the GGCA advocacy team, WEDO has taken the lead on adaptation to climate change, financing, capacity building and negotiations on REDD (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries).

Cate Owren from WEDO and Ana Rojas from ENERGIA served as the leaders of



the Global Gender and Climate Alliance advocacy team in Copenhagen, with Ana stepping in after Khamarunga Banda became ill. (See the In Memoriam section of the December 2009 issue of ENERGIA News.) In this issue, Cate reports on the advocacy team's efforts and successes in 2009, and plans for 2010.

We have also invited some of our other important partners in gender and climate change advocacy to contribute their own perspectives for this issue of ENERGIA News. Although they represent a diversity of expertise and approaches, and may not specifically focus on energy issues, what we all share is a commitment to women's representation and participation in decision-making at all levels, and an emphasis on women's roles as leaders in moving towards equality and sustainable livelihoods for all.

Women's groups and other NGOs have worked for many years to be recognised as legitimate stakeholders in the climate negotiations. Gotelind Alber from the Gendercc - Women for Climate Justice group outlines the history of women and gender activists at the UNFCCC, and the challenges faced in establishing Women and Gender as a formal 'constituency' allowed to make interventions and participate actively in UNFCCC sessions.

Our featured interviewee for this issue is Aira Kalela, Special Representative on Climate and Gender in Finland's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She has been a major ally of the GGCA advocacy team, and last year Finland created a Women Delegates Fund to support women delegates from developing countries in attending the UNFCCC meetings. For 2010, Aira emphasises the need for women to participate in the UNFCCC work programme, including plans for how to allocate the promised \$30 billion in funding for 'immediate activities' in developing countries.

The overall amount of funding and investments expected for climate change responses and adaptation in developing countries could really boost economic development and women's empowerment if it is channelled into expanded energy access initiatives for

rural areas. Gail Karlsson from ENERGIA looks more closely at the possibilities of using climate-related funding for clean fuels and electricity generation projects that benefit women and how to ensure that carbon trading funds and credits are equally accessible to men and women.

The Kyoto Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) already allows industrialised countries to satisfy their emission reduction commitments through clean energy investments in developing countries. However, so far, the CDM has been of little use for women's groups seeking international carbon credits for small-scale projects. The procedures are complex and daunting. Several members of Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF) have provided an analysis of the CDM in the Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia Region and offered recommendations on improvements that would remove some of the difficulties in applying it to household and community-level energy projects.

From the field, we have a report by Govind Kelkar from UNIFEM on her work in India, China and other Asian countries examining the gendered impacts of climate change on indigenous peoples. Indigenous women experience gender discrimination compounded by historical conquest and colonialisation, and by current efforts to privatise or nationalise land used by indigenous communities - including for greenhouse gas mitigation projects such as biofuel plantations, wind farms and forest reserves. Nevertheless, some indigenous women have emerged as leaders engaged in protecting their lands, or securing community benefits from renewable energy projects.

Despite the failure of the UN climate change negotiations in 2009 to produce a long-term legally binding international treaty, much progress has been made on highlighting the gender dimensions of climate change and boosting women's participation in the UNFCCC processes. We will continue this work at the UNFCCC meetings in 2010, including the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Cancun, Mexico in December.



**Gail Karlsson**, ENERGIA Senior Policy Advisor, is an environmental lawyer and consultant on energy and development. She has edited and produced a number of publications on gender and energy

including *Biofuels for Rural Development and Empowerment of Women* (ENERGIA, IUCN & SANERI, 2009); *Where Energy is Women's Business: National and Regional Reports from Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Pacific* (ENERGIA, 2007); *Gender & Energy for Sustainable Development: A Toolkit and Resource Guide* (UNDP & ENERGIA, 2004) and *Generating Opportunities: Case Studies on Energy and Women* (UNDP, 2001). For more information: [gkarlsson@att.net](mailto:gkarlsson@att.net) or [gkarlsson@igc.org](mailto:gkarlsson@igc.org)



**Cate Owren** joined WEDO in 2007 to develop the organisation's strategy and partnerships on gender and climate change in developing countries. In her earlier position as Sustainable Develop-

ment/Climate Change Coordinator, she led climate change advocacy strategising at the global and national levels, and co-facilitated the GGCA advocacy team with ENERGIA. She now serves as Program Director, working on governance, UN reform and the lead-up to Rio+20, as well as on climate change and numerous other issues. She has field experience in West Africa and the Caribbean, and a Master's degree in International Affairs from the New School in New York City. Cate can be contacted at: [cate@wedo.org](mailto:cate@wedo.org)



**Ana Rojas** works in the ENERGIA International Secretariat, with responsibility for managing network activities in Asia and supporting the development of climate change initiatives. She

has more than eight years of experience working on environment and development issues, with an emphasis on international climate change negotiations and national policies, and their impacts on small-scale projects and community based adaptation strategies. She has degrees in law and environmental management, and is the author of a study on the legal and institutional framework of the Clean Development Mechanism. Ana can be contacted at: [a.rojas@etcnl.nl](mailto:a.rojas@etcnl.nl)





## Gender Mainstreaming Training for Africa Biogas Partnership Programme

In its efforts to mainstream gender in energy projects, ENERGIA is engaging with the Africa Biogas Partnership Programme (ABPP), a six-country initiative for supporting the construction of some 70,500 digesters over a period of five years. ENERGIA will conduct a training workshop on Mainstreaming Gender in the ABPP in order to equip the participants with the skills required to understand the relevance of gender issues in biogas programmes and to provide them with practical tools that can be used during various stages of the project cycle to ensure that gender differences are not inadvertently overlooked. The training workshop is scheduled for 18-19 May, 2010 in Nairobi, Kenya.

## Gender Mainstreaming Energy Projects

Since 2009, ENERGIA has been working on mainstreaming gender into the Community-Based Renewable Energy Systems (CBRES) project implemented by SIBAT, a Philippines organisation. Under the initiative, the team completed an institutional assessment and a baseline survey of micro-hydro power plants, photovoltaic water pumps and small wind energy systems. One outcome of the process was a Gender Action Plan (GAP), which outlines concrete gender activities the project will undertake. In March 2010, the SIBAT team, along with ENERGIA, presented the GAP to the Governing Board of the organisation, which endorsed it, and gave the go-ahead for implementation.

In Pakistan, ENERGIA's gender mainstreaming work with the national biogas programme included a gendered baseline survey of the project. Gender issues were incorporated into the



*Validation workshop of the Nigeria gender audit of energy policy.*

project baseline survey, and a set of gender analytical tools were developed, which are available on request. This was unique in that instead of a producing a separate, stand-alone 'gender' survey, it was integrated within an existing project baseline survey. Currently the Gender Action Plan is being discussed by the project management.

In Botswana, the Botswana Power Corporation (BPC) is undertaking a gender mainstreaming project for its grid and off-grid projects. A GAP workshop was held for this project in April 2010. The GAP development was innovative in that it was done with and by BPC staff so as to give them full ownership. The gender team facilitated and guided this process after a presentation of the findings of the preliminary gender analytical steps. The draft GAP will be presented to BPC management for their endorsement.

The gender mainstreaming projects in Tanzania, Kenya and Senegal are now finalising the 'diagnostic steps' of undertaking a literature review, a project document review, an institutional assessment and a baseline survey. These projects will soon start developing a GAP, based on the findings of these diagnostic steps.

## Gender Audits of National Energy Policies in Nepal, Ghana and Nigeria

In the period 2008-2009, three gender audits of national energy policies have been implemented:

- In **Nepal** the audit was led by a consortium consisting of the Centre for Rural Technology Nepal, Practical Action Nepal, and the Alternative

Energy Promotion Centre (AEPIC).

- In **Ghana** the audit was done by Gratis Foundation and the Ministry of Energy.
- In **Nigeria** Friends of the Environment and the Energy Commission of Nigeria undertook the audit.

The Ministry of Energy in Ghana and the Energy Commission of Nigeria have endorsed the audit reports and action plans during validation workshops attended by key decision-makers from the sector. Follow-up activities to these audits have included: the incorporation of gender text in the Oil and Gas policy framework in Ghana, the establishment of a gender contact person in the Department of Energy, Ghana; and a gender and energy policy training workshop for directors of energy departments and the Ministry of Women Affairs in Nigeria.

## Outcomes of ENERGIA's coaching of energy projects

Through coaching, ENERGIA has been working intensively with a number of energy projects to build their vision for a more ambitious gender goal, going beyond that of addressing basic needs for clean cooking fuel or lighting to that of addressing productive needs. The following examples show how the coaching has added value to the project outcomes in terms of improving the livelihoods of women beneficiaries.

In **Sri Lanka**, the Energy Forum has been working with the Electricity Consumer Societies (ECSs) of two micro-hydro plants, and outcomes of the coaching include:

- Initiation of new women's energy-based businesses.
- Introduction of light points in kitchens, use of electricity for



domestic grinding machines and rice cookers, electric water heaters, which reduce women's drudgery and improve convenience in domestic chores.

- Setting up of a day care centre for migrant labourers' children.
- Use of excess power for milling grain.
- Involvement of women in decision making bodies such as ECSS.

In the **Rambukolowa micro hydro project** in **Sri Lanka**, the community agreed to several actions such as appointment of women to the ECS committee, formation of a women's action group, involvement of women in decisions on transmission lines and, most importantly, to use the excess electricity generated to operate a multiple grinding platform and to provide a community water pump for women to irrigate fields to produce a second crop.

The main achievements of the coaching process with the **Biogas Support Programme in Nepal** can be summarised as follows:

- Norms on women's participation in user trainings.
- Targeted training for women mobilisers.
- 50 women cooperatives have been mobilised for loans.
- Priority given to women entrepreneurs in order to promote biogas use (six women-owned biogas companies have been established as a result), provision of separate training and incentives to women masons, and awards for best the mason/supervisor/entrepreneur to women and men separately.
- Inclusion of new gender indicators in BSP's monitoring and evaluation system.

As a result of ENERGIA's support, the **Biogas Pilot Programme** in **Lao PDR** is planning to pilot two main prioritised activities identified through the coaching process:

- the gender-sensitive promotion and marketing of biogas plants, and
- the establishment of a biogas development fund or credit for women and other disadvantaged groups. In addition, the programme will invest in gender capacity development of its staff.

### Side Event at Beijing Platform for Action

ENERGIA, together with ESCAP and UNIFEM, co-convened a side event at the High-Level Meeting to Review Regional Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action that took place between 16 and 18 November, 2009. The side event, which was entitled 'Gender, energy and climate change: Closing the MDG gaps', highlighted the links between gender, energy and poverty, and discussed ways in which gender sensitive strategies can be used to promote poverty reduction. Ms Feri Lumampao, Approtech Asia Executive Director, was a member of the panel and one of the speakers, as the Technical Adviser on Gender, Energy and Climate Change to ENERGIA.

### External Evaluation

The ETC Energy Access Program, of which the ENERGIA programme is part, is to be externally evaluated. The external evaluation aims to provide accountability for the Energy Access programme's results, and for the learning within the two civil society networks, EASE and ENERGIA that implement the programme.

The team of evaluators consists of Dr Andrew Barnett and Ms Verona Groverman. Dr Barnett is an economist who has worked on energy, technology and poverty for over 25 years. Ms Groverman has over 25 years of experience in process facilitation, capacity building, evaluations, and policy and strategy development. The evaluation is planned to take place in May 2010.

### ENERGIA's Strategy Plan

In September 2009, the International Secretariat hosted an ENERGIA International Network Meeting in the Netherlands. During the meeting, participants in the network looked forward to the coming five years and how to give direction to the activities and organisational structure of the network. Following this meeting, a draft strategic plan for 2011-2015 was developed by Dr Venkata Ramana, a member of the Advisory Group. This plan will be circulated among the ENERGIA National Focal Points, the Advisory



Street food vendor in the Philippines using an improved stove for her business.

Group, Regional Network Coordinators and the International Secretariat for review and discussion, with the hope that ENERGIA will have a five-year strategy plan, endorsed by the network, by autumn 2010.

### Funding Update

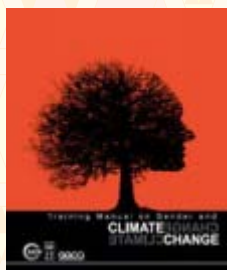
In 2009, the Netherlands Directorate General for International Cooperation (DGIS) issued a new policy note to which a new funding window (MFS2) was attached for the period 2011-2015. ETC, host to ENERGIA for over 10 years, applied for funding under this window on behalf of the network. On 30 March 2010, ETC received the disappointing news that its proposal was not approved, meaning that DGIS funding for the ENERGIA programme activities will end as of 31 December 2010, after having provided almost 15 years of financial support to the network's activities. ENERGIA is grateful for all these years of support by DGIS, which together with the co-funding from Sida, has underpinned the start-up and growth of the network. We regret losing DGIS as one of our core funders, but are convinced that the strength of our network will allow us to overcome this loss and find a way forward.





# Gender, Energy and Climate Change

## Training Manual on Gender and Climate Change (GGCA, 2009)



IUCN took the lead, and many other GGCA institutions contributed, in compiling this training manual for the Global Gender & Climate Alliance. The manual is divided into seven modules, which each include training exercises, case studies and annotated bibliographies.

The manual has been used in dozens of training exercises with civil society, in briefings for governments and UN agencies, and in orientation sessions with government negotiators working on climate change policy. In 2009, IUCN organised global and regional training courses on gender and climate change, and UNDP and UNEP led a large Anglophone/Francophone training exercise in Africa.

The manual is available in English, French and Spanish. It can be downloaded from [www.gender-climate.org](http://www.gender-climate.org) or [www.iucn.org](http://www.iucn.org).

## Climate Change Connections: Gender & Population (WEDO, 2009)



WEDO has developed this resource kit in collaboration with the UN Population Fund. It includes policy briefs, case studies and materials on finance mechanisms, advocacy

and national adaptation plans. The kit was developed as a follow-up to a workshop on gender and climate change in 2008 which had revealed that user-friendly resources for understanding the critical links between gender equality and climate change were lacking – especially for practitioners and policymakers in developing countries. WEDO drew on the publications and presentations commissioned for that workshop to design action-oriented briefs on key areas of the climate change debate. Focusing

also on population dynamics added a layer to the resources: urbanisation, migration, health and household composition all contribute to, and are affected by, the impacts and causes of climate change in various ways, with women and men each having specific needs, as well as knowledge and expertise.

It is available in English and French on [www.wedo.org](http://www.wedo.org) and [www.unfpa.org](http://www.unfpa.org).

## Gender into Climate Policy: A toolkit for climate experts and decision-makers (Gendercc, 2009)



Gendercc – Women for Climate Justice published a toolkit that provides climate change experts and decision-makers with the essentials of a gender-just climate policy. It explains how important it is to consider gender when making climate policy, and how to go about doing that. It succinctly covers the major issues of the climate change negotiations: the gendered causes and impacts, proposed solutions to mitigate climate change, and recommendations for gender-just technology transfer and financing mechanisms.

The toolkit introduces methods that can be used for mainstreaming gender into climate policy on the national and international levels, and presents principles for gender-sensitive communication, together with facts and figures related to gender and climate change.

The toolkit can be ordered by sending an email to [m.rolle@gendercc.net](mailto:m.rolle@gendercc.net). More information is also available at: [www.gendercc.net/resources/gender-tools.html](http://www.gendercc.net/resources/gender-tools.html)

## Gender and Climate Change in Southern Africa (Heinrich Böll Foundation, 2010)

In order to contribute to the information available on the gender-differentiated impacts of climate change, the Heinrich Böll



Foundation commissioned four case studies in countries in southern Africa: Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia and South Africa. Parts of southern Africa are highly vulnerable to climate variability,

and adaptation actions will need to be finely tuned to the needs of individual communities, taking into account the different roles, different knowledge and coping strategies of men and women in those communities, if they are to be successful. The Botswana case study, for example, references ENERGIA's audit of national policies and programmes conducted in collaboration with the Botswana Technology Centre (BOTEC), while highlighting the particular impacts of energy poverty, and improved energy access, on women in Botswana. The case studies are available at:

<http://boell.org.za/web/107-496.html>

## Resource Guide on Gender and Climate Change (UNDP, 2009)



This guide is designed to inform practitioners and decision-makers about the linkages between gender equality and climate change responses, and about the relevance of those link-

ages to meeting the Millennium Development Goals. The guide makes the case for why women's voices and expertise need to be included in climate change plans and policies, and shows how women's contributions can strengthen the effectiveness of climate change measures and help build a new 'green economy'.

The last section of the guide contains an annotated bibliography on key gender, climate change and energy documents. It also provides a brief analysis of international conventions and declarations that form a framework for applying a gender equality approach in the context of climate change mitigation and adaptation. The guide is available online at: [www.un.org/women-watch](http://www.un.org/women-watch)



# ***Building Momentum on Gender and Climate Change Advocacy***

Most of the news reports coming out of the December 2009 UN Climate Change Summit in Copenhagen called it a failure. Indeed, a comprehensive, legally binding agreement was not the outcome.

What has not made the news is the history-making progress in advancing women's rights, women's participation and gender equality issues in climate change decision-making and policies. Last year saw monumental changes in incorporating women's perspectives and gender concerns in the negotiating texts. There is still a lot to do – and without an overall agreement, the small insertions of gender into the text on the table are worthless. Nevertheless, there is progress on which to build, and from which we can continue to strategise.

CATE OWREN

*Team members reacting to a new negotiating version.*





## Establishing the Global Gender & Climate Alliance

In the early months of 2005, WEDO and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) began discussions on how best to 'engender' the climate change debate. Especially in the developed world, climate change was viewed as an environmental and economic issue – not one with a human face, much less a woman's face. However, the developing nations saw a different story, as the impacts of a changing climate began to affect the people already in vulnerable socioeconomic positions.

While women and gender-focused organisations, and numerous other stakeholder groups, had been engaged in the climate change process for nearly two decades, progress was slow in integrating social concerns into policies and programmes, especially since civil society opportunities for meaningful participation in the formal climate change negotiations were limited. As climate change gained attention on the global stage, a huge gap persisted in terms of including social justice, human rights and women's perspectives.

With the first phase of the Kyoto Protocol drawing to a close, and nations beginning to grapple with the massive impacts and cross-cutting nature of climate change, WEDO and IUCN decided to seek a united front on gender and climate change, to link policymakers with advocates, researchers and practitioners, and to link NGOs with UN agencies, in order to ensure that climate change policies, decision-making and programmes would become gender responsive.

Together with the UN Development Programme's Gender Team, and the UN Environment Programme, WEDO and IUCN formally launched the Global Gender and Climate Alliance (GGCA) in Bali, Indonesia, at the 13<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the Climate Change Convention (COP13) in December, 2007. In two years, the GGCA has grown to include 13 UN agencies and 25 civil society organisations, with the ENERGIA network being among the early members. Given their history of co-convening the Women's Major Group at the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, and other collaboration over the years, WEDO and ENERGIA were natural partners to lead an advocacy team on behalf of the GGCA.

## Advocacy strategy

At COP13 in Bali, the 'Bali Action Plan' outlined a two-year process through which parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) would negotiate on all the major aspects of climate change. The so-called Bali 'building blocks' included adaptation, mitigation, technology, finance and a shared vision of all parties committing to long-term cooperative action. Each of these critical areas was lacking a gender component. The Bali Action Plan further established an Ad hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action (AWG-LCA), which was mandated to meet

through to early December 2009, and then to present its work as the basis for an agreed outcome to be adopted at COP15.

The AWG-LCA, as the most comprehensive policymaking body under the global convention, was a primary target for GGCA advocacy. It was expected to draft the first major global agreement to include every key component of addressing climate change, far surpassing the Kyoto Protocol, which mainly focused on emission reduction targets. This was a major opportunity for targeted gender advocacy in each main area: adaptation, mitigation, technology, finance and a shared vision - as well as capacity building, often dealt with as a separate, informally added, 'building block'.

At the end of 2008, with progress slow at COP14 in Poznan, Poland, WEDO and ENERGIA decided to build a targeted advocacy team to work closely as technical advisors with government negotiators. The team would travel to each of the major negotiating meetings and also liaise with stakeholders and negotiators between sessions, and also when back at home. From the beginning, the team's major goal was to address gender equality as a critical and integral component of sustainable development and poverty eradication, both of which are pillars of the UNFCCC. The team worked with negotiators to increase their understanding of the reality that gender equality is not a 'distraction' but an inextricable aspect of responding to climate change.

The advocacy team was also engaged directly in another major GGCA activity: providing capacity building, training of trainers and briefings for delegates. On behalf of the GGCA, IUCN organised gender and climate change 'update sessions' for negotiators on gender issues and provided specific gender text timed to coincide with major negotiating meetings. The capacity building sessions were very popular and well-attended; in fact, the advocacy team was regularly asked for further training at the national level, a testament to the efficacy of the GGCA joint work plan and methodology. (More information on the GGCA training manual can be found in the 'Resources' section of this newsletter.)

## The advocacy team

In early 2009, the advocacy team began to take shape. It included both climate change experts and gender advocacy experts from all over the world. Advocates from Nepal, Philippines, Brazil, Togo, Ghana, South Africa, Poland, Costa Rica, Canada and elsewhere attended the six major UNFCCC negotiating meetings in 2009, working with more than 100 governments. Between negotiating meetings, advocates targeted officials in their own and in neighbouring countries, trying to build and sustain support for gender texts in the negotiating documents.

WEDO, which is based in New York, took a particular interest in the position of the United States - especially



since the Obama administration was moving towards a dramatically different (and more progressive) stance than the country had taken in recent years. WEDO was able to brief the US Department of State on gender references in the negotiating texts, as well as on broader gender and climate change concerns.

The work of the advocacy team was often gruelling. The team responded to every major version of the negotiating document with a technical position paper providing suggestions on gender-sensitive language. Having a substantial team comprised of advocates with different expertise and experiences made it possible to respond to the many complex negotiating documents, some of which were hundreds of pages long.

The continual outreach of the team towards various governments definitely made a difference: references to women and gender in the negotiating documents went from zero (in December 2008, at COP14) to more than 40 by March 2009! Submissions from Iceland, Philippines, Ecuador and India - along with the European Union and the African Group - were among the strongest in terms of including texts on gender and women in the first versions of the negotiating documents.

Of course, the GGCA advocacy team was not alone in working to incorporate gender sensitivity and equity issues into the climate change texts. The next article in this issue of ENERGIA News is a report by Gotelind Alber, of GenderCC - Women for Climate Justice, on their efforts to gain official recognition for a Women and Gender constituency.

#### Noteworthy achievements of the GGCA advocacy team:

- Drafting more than 20 technical position papers on proposed text;
- Liaising with other major groups (such as the Indigenous Peoples' Caucus, Trade Unions and the Climate Action Network) to ensure that women and gender messages were also included in their statements and positions;
- Providing technical expertise and recommendations to 100+ governments;
- Briefing regional negotiating blocs (AOSIS, Least Developed Countries and the African Group) during their preparatory meetings and in separate bilateral discussions.

#### Examples of text referencing gender and women

India's early submission to the UNFCCC said, 'Implementation of adaptation actions should take into account diverse and specific characteristics of different levels of vulnerability assessments, including gender sensitivity, as [an] integral part of adaptation actions.'

Nicaragua, also on behalf of Guatemala, Dominican Republic, Honduras and Panama, noted that 'education, awareness raising and public participation [must be] focused on youth, women and indigenous peoples.'

The Czech Republic emphasised the importance of integrating 'gender considerations' and focusing on adaptation activities that are 'gender sensitive'.

Some other nations focused more broadly on the importance of social justice or human issues in relation to climate policies and activities. For example, Bolivia em-

*I am an agent of CChange photo shoot.*







phasised social development, and the United States noted that mitigation activities must be aimed at lessening the impacts on those most vulnerable to climate change.

The advocacy team worked with these texts to continue gaining support from a wide variety of governments. The result was an unprecedented number of gender references in the 2009 negotiation documents. Naturally, throughout the year, as the negotiations intensified and the texts were streamlined, the number of gender references fell in line with the size of the overall document.

### Challenges and disappointments in Copenhagen

Although WEDO and ENERGIA were ready to make a last push to secure gender language in the outcome agreement from COP15 in Copenhagen, the major political issues remained far from resolved. A seemingly growing divide between the developed and developing countries' positions and priorities suggested that an agreement might not emerge from Copenhagen.

Parties were not close to consensus on mitigation targets, on measuring, reporting and verifying, on finance and governance of finance mechanisms, or on whether the Kyoto Protocol mechanisms would continue. The unresolved issues threatened to set back the progress made in other areas - such as adaptation, capacity building and REDD (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation), and also in securing the gender-related points.

In the end, the Copenhagen Accord, a brief twelve-paragraph document hastily drawn up by only 26 governments, was negotiated in the final hours of the COP. The Accord makes promises about emission reductions and financing adaptation in the poorer countries, but lacks binding commitments. As it was not negotiated in the same spirit as the multilateral COP draft texts, many parties still resent its existence. At the time of this article, nearly all UNFCCC Parties have 'taken note of' the Accord, agreeing to use it as one of the inputs to the continuing negotiations in 2010, but some - such as Bolivia and Venezuela - remain vehemently opposed.

The 12 points in the Accord only vaguely reflect the comprehensive components of the Bali Action Plan. There is an inadequate global emissions target, and only optional pledges to finance adaptation and mitigation projects, without a mechanism to manage the pledges - and no references to gender equality.

However, draft decisions also emerged from the Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action. Support for gender equality principles came from governments in Africa, Asia, Latin America, Small Island Developing States, the

Arab League and the industrialised countries, notably the Nordic States, ultimately securing eight strong references in the draft decisions proposed to the COP for consideration and adoption. These texts noted women's acute vulnerability and also emphasised the importance of a gender perspective and equitable participation of women and men at all stages in addressing climate change causes and impacts.

The Long-term Cooperative Action negotiations were also extended by a further year, through to COP16 in Mexico (December 2010). This is good news for gender advocates, as it means all the hard work of the last few years is not lost.

### Next Steps

There is still a lot to do. Parties have been invited to submit suggestions on how to move forward and integrate the substantive Long-term Cooperative Action text with the structure of the Copenhagen Accord. While we hope that the existing gender references will be integrated into the 2010 negotiating documents, a mere mention of women or gender considerations will not be enough. Strong text must be adopted to ensure that implementation is effective, equitable and inclusive, and that funds, capacity-building efforts and technology are responsive and accessible to both women and men.

In particular, the gender references in the Finance and Technology sections were lost early on, and advocates must target these areas. Women's expertise and innovations must inform technological advancements, not merely react to them - and women must have equal access (if not prioritised access) to funding mechanisms to cope with climate change. Recently, the UN Secretary-General appointed 19 members to a High-Level Advisory Group on climate change finance, with not a single woman among them. The perception seems to persist that when it comes to science and money, women are less qualified, or unwilling, to participate, and this (which we know to be both untrue and damaging) must be addressed.

WEDO and ENERGIA, along with other partners, will continue to work with delegates and civil society actors to engender the climate change debate. With the Mexico Conference of the Parties (COP16) now the next major milestone, there is no time to lose - and with the impacts of climate change mounting for those communities already most vulnerable, the issue is more urgent than ever.

To get involved in advocacy efforts, you can contact me at [cate@wedo.org](mailto:cate@wedo.org), or visit our website for frequent updates.

Cate's biographic information can be found with this issue's Editorial.





# The Women and Gender Constituency in the Climate Negotiations

Fifteen years after the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) entered into force, civil society organisations working on women and gender issues are finally being acknowledged as a special observer group. This sounds a bit formal, but is nevertheless a major step forward in giving women and gender issues greater prominence. After several years of awareness raising and advocacy, we have reached a point where the gender dimensions of climate change and climate policy can no longer be denied.

GOTELIND ALBER

*Asian grassroots women are calling for action on climate change and its impacts. October 2009, Bangkok, Thailand.*

Starting from a complete absence of references to women and gender in the official texts, we have introduced and secured some gender language in the outcomes of the Copenhagen conference. However, we have still a long way to go, first, because the Copenhagen conference as a whole was a failure and, second, since although some gender language here and there is a worthwhile step, this is not the eventual outcome we really envision.

Unlike other processes originating from the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio, there is no 'major groups' concept that allows stakeholder involvement in the UNFCCC conferences and

debates. Nevertheless, some 1,300 civil society organisations have been admitted as observers and, at many UNFCCC sessions, observers outnumber government delegates.

During the early years of the process, several groups of stakeholders evolved, the first two being the Environmental NGOs and the Business and Industry NGOs. Later, the Local Government and Municipal Authorities were recognised as a group. Following this, the UNFCCC Secretariat developed a procedure for admitting similar constituencies. Subsequently, the Indigenous Peoples, Research and Independent Organizations, and Trade Unions clusters were formed. The Women and Gender group

was provisionally recognised as a constituency just prior to COP15 in Copenhagen, along with both Youth and Farmers. Provided member organisations demonstrate their capacity to make a meaningful and specific contribution to the process, permanent constituency status will be granted.

The past several years have seen the increasing presence and engagement of women and gender organisations in the process, starting with a meeting at COP11 in Milan in 2003 organised by the German women's group LIFE, in collaboration with ENERGIA and Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF). Following this, GenderCC was founded, initially as a loose network of anyone interested in



gender and climate change. Today, 'Gendercc - Women for Climate Justice' is a global network working with regional focal points on advocacy, capacity building, research and practical steps towards gender-sensitive climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Although small in number, women and gender NGOs have had a great impact. At COP13 in Bali, Indonesia, in 2007, a daily women's caucus was held for the first time. It was at this COP that the women's caucus decided to apply for its own constituency, and Gendercc offered to work on the application process.

Once signals were received that an application for a Women and Gender constituency would be successful, delegates from several groups began to prepare a draft charter. The active groups included LIFE, WECF, WEDO and ENERGIA. The charter defines the constituency's principles and objectives, and some basic rules of collaboration: *'The goal of the Women and Gender Constituency is to formalise the voice of the women's and gender civil society organisations present and regularly active in UNFCCC processes, and to debate, streamline and strengthen the positions which these organisations put forth. The Constituency draws upon global commitments to gender equality and women's rights, especially as they relate to climate change, and toward the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and related commitments and Conventions. The Constituency works to ensure that human rights and a gender perspective are incorporated into UNFCCC negotiations, plans and actions...'*

The benefits of having constituency status include greater respect being accorded to members of the constituency and increased visibility of women and gender organisations. Constituencies also earn a slot in which to make interventions during plenary sessions and workshops. They are invited to consultations with chairs of committees and the COP presidency as well as the thematic UNFCCC workshops that are held between sessions. In addition, one of the more practical benefits of constituency status is that the Secretariat provides the groups with office space and meeting rooms.

The interaction between the UNFCCC Secretariat and the constituency is through a focal point who is nominated

by the members of the constituency. Currently, Gendercc serves as the focal point, and is likely to retain this position until a final decision is taken on the constituency's status by COP17 in 2011. In the meantime, women and gender organisations are evaluating their collaboration.

Within the constituency, there are many approaches and positions, and this diversity is fully accepted and respected. For instance, some groups concentrate their efforts on gender mainstreaming, or on the implementation of practical projects to combat energy poverty, while others envisage more fundamental changes. Nevertheless there is sufficient common ground for close collaboration among the members of the constituency. Shared priorities include:

- Fostering wider participation of women in climate-related processes and supporting their views and perspectives;
- Taking a sustainability approach - going beyond a narrow focus on carbon and taking other environmental, social and economic issues into consideration;
- Recognising women's roles as efficient and capable energy managers;
- Promoting equitable actions on adaptation, responding to those most in need;
- Upholding the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities for mitigation based on historical greenhouse gas emissions;
- Advocating for a sustainable energy paradigm to replace the fossil fuel and nuclear based economy;
- Ensuring that climate change policies are in line with global commitments such as the Millennium Development Goals for sustainable development and poverty eradication.

Moreover, women's and gender organisations are building and strengthening alliances with other constituencies, such as those representing indigenous peoples and trade unions, who share our concerns on human rights and social and economic justice issues related to climate change. The constituency also reaches out to a number of like-minded governments. One of these is Finland that has supported the participation of

women delegates from African countries and the activities of the constituency.

During climate meetings, the women's caucus is organised on a daily basis, open to anyone who is willing to work with us. Due to the cross-cutting character of women and gender, such openness is felt to be useful in strengthening the campaign for climate justice, rather than just following the process's narrow focus on technologies and mechanisms.

Other observer organisations can join the constituency, and groups that have not yet been accredited to the UNFCCC can work through one of the member organisations. In order to achieve gender justice within climate justice, we need as many allies as possible!

Indeed, although there are some achievements, there is a lot left to do. There is no mention of gender in any of the texts on mitigation, technology and financing. In particular, once all the climate-related funds that are foreseen become operational, we need to ensure that there is gender equity in their distribution. As for technology, at every session, new climatic threats are raised with risky and unsustainable technologies being offered as solutions, such as carbon capture and storage, and various geo-engineering technologies. We need to convince delegates that these are false solutions, demonstrate and highlight what real solutions should look like, and find ways of putting this into text that is understandable to negotiators. Moreover, we need to secure the space we have acquired in the negotiations, and seek to maintain and enhance the inclusiveness and transparency of the UNFCCC process.



**Gotelind Alber** is a physicist by education. She has been working in research on energy scenarios and energy / climate policy. Gotelind has also been the managing director of the Climate Alliance, a

city network on climate change and development. She is now working as an independent consultant and researcher. She is also a board member of Gendercc. You can contact Gotelind at: [g.alber@gendercc.net](mailto:g.alber@gendercc.net)



## Aira Kalela: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland



The Government of Finland is well known for championing women's rights and the advancement of gender equality issues – and has made significant commitments to gender and climate change funds and activities. Specifically, Finland has been an important supporter of the Global Gender and Climate Alliance (GGCA), of which ENERGIA and WEDO are leading members.

**Why do you think the GGCA, as a combination of NGOs and UN agencies, is a strategic alliance? How has it made an impact on raising the visibility of gender concerns in the climate change debates?**

I think that the Global Gender and Climate Alliance is a very strategic partner in promoting women's active participation in climate activities because it has so many international organisations as members. Its membership includes more than thirty different types of organisations, including both governmental and non-governmental organisations. Thus, the GGCA can reach various audiences.

Finland has been supporting the awareness raising and outreach activities organised by the GGCA in connection with the UNFCCC negotiations toward a new global climate agreement, and at other major international meetings on climate. In 2009, the GGCA was able to reach out to more than 3,000 political decision-makers, climate experts and women leaders, providing information on the gender-related impacts of climate change, including how women can make a significant contribution to adaptation and mitigation strategies and activities.

**We see 2009 as a historic year, as it was the first time gender equality issues were integrated into climate change negotiations and negotiating documents. Why do you think this finally happened in 2009? Why were negotiators finally ready to address social issues – and, more specifically, gender issues?**

In the past year, we have indeed witnessed a historic breakthrough in integrating a gender approach into climate negotiations. When governments presented their proposals for the new agreement, more than 40 proposals were made on women and gender. During the autumn of 2009, the overlapping texts were streamlined, but the current drafts (at the beginning of 2010) still include eight references to gender. In 1992, when the Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was finalised, and in 1997, when the Kyoto Protocol was agreed, there was still no clear understanding of the close inter-linked relationship between climate change – as a component of sustainable development – and gender equality. Now, we understand these issues better and we can act on the basis of this new knowledge.

**Finland founded the Women Delegates Fund last year, which supports women from developing countries to serve on their national delegations to climate change meetings, and which WEDO was pleased to administer. Do you feel that equitable delegations result in more equitable policies, programmes and funds?**

We consider it very important that the decision-making process on

climate change should be democratic and transparent – whether at the local, national or global level. Those people whose lives and livelihoods are directly impacted by climate change should have a say about their own survival – and the survival of the planet.

The latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report emphasises that the poorest regions and poorest people will be most affected by climate change. Women make up 70% of the world's poor and should therefore contribute to decision-making on this issue. Likewise, we know that women make 80% of the daily purchasing decisions in OECD countries. They can have an influence in changing consumption patterns towards sustainable ones, and have a positive impact on slowing down climate change. Fast-developing countries will follow the prevailing patterns of consumption growth and, thus, consumption behaviour will be of the utmost importance.

In developing countries, too, women can make a change that slows climate change impacts by establishing tree nurseries and planting trees. Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Wangari Maathai's example in Kenya is a very encouraging one.

**What challenges do you see ahead, as we work toward COP16 in Mexico? On what areas should women advocates and activists particularly focus?**

Our Heads of State and Governments agreed in Copenhagen that \$30 billion would be provided for immediate activities on climate change. It is of the utmost importance that women participate in planning, budgeting and implementing these activities, in particular those that concern adaptation. Likewise, it will be important that the relevant COP16 decisions include a gender approach. The decisions on adaptation and financing are of particular importance. It is critical that women and gender equality advocates look not only at the negotiating process, but also at the forthcoming decisions on the UNFCCC work programme. We must identify ways to work cooperatively with our national and local-level partners.



Aira Kalela has been the Special Representative on Climate and Gender in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland. Prior to this Aira held senior positions in the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Finland and was the Deputy Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).





# Adivasi Women Engaging with Climate Change

**Hundreds of millions of indigenous women and men throughout the world manage their forests and crops sustainably, and in this way contribute to the sequestration of greenhouse gases. However, maintaining control over their land and forests in the face of colonial and corporate attempts to nationalise or privatise them has been a historic struggle.**

**GOVIND KELKAR**

In many areas in Asia, adivasis (a term applied to a variety of indigenous ethnic and tribal groups) and other indigenous peoples are struggling to save their natural resources from deforestation and the damaging extraction of minerals, oil and gas, as well as from further expansion of mono-crop plantations. Indigenous peoples advocate at various local, regional and international forums for maintaining their sustainable production and consumption systems.

Climate change presents an additional challenge to most indigenous peoples. It is increasing their difficulties in managing natural resources and the agricultural productivity of the lands they depend on. Many are searching for ways to effectively adapt to erratic rainfall, drought and other projected impacts of global warming, and for ways to mitigate its cause.

UNIFEM, IFAD and The Christensen Fund supported a study that examined the gendered impacts of climate change in adivasi and indigenous societies in Asia. These impacts have been exacerbated by structural

shifts in socioeconomic systems resulting from the colonial history, recent efforts at privatisation and traditional gender roles.

The study drew on available materials (both published and unpublished) on gender dimensions of climate change; my own experience in working with adivasi and indigenous peoples in India, China, and several countries in Asia; and field visits undertaken between 2006 to 2008 in India and China.

## **Benefits of sustainable forest and land use**

Sustainable agriculture, and harvesting or cultivating non-timber forest products, are critical aspects of many adivasi and indigenous people's livelihoods. Maintaining indigenous peoples' legal control and sustainable use of natural resources in their ancestral domains can provide significant benefits in terms of climate change adaptation and mitigation.

First, legal control and sustainable use of natural resources improves their livelihoods, thus increasing their





economic resiliency and capacity to adapt. Second, their sustainable agriculture and forest use can help provide preserve sinks that absorb greenhouse gases, reduce deforestation and also promote land rehabilitation, water conservation and increased biomass production.

However, the success of their sustainable practices rests in large part on maintaining inclusive relations among community members that bolster the strength of the entire community when faced with external pressures such as privatisation and globalisation. The sustainable management of natural resources is negatively affected when women have limited rights to manage and control land, and to participate in community governance of forests.

Income generated from forests and also power have accumulated under local elites, who have often excluded women and the poor from using the land, or owning and controlling rights to land and forests. Hence, forest-based adivasi and indigenous societies have in many cases experienced deepened gender inequalities.

For women in these societies, access to new technology and productive assets, credit and resources is often even more restricted than the already-limited access of adivasi and indigenous peoples in general, and they may experience additional inequality in the market and workplace even within their own communities.

Meanwhile, the weakening of traditional norms among adivasi and indigenous peoples, along with the



PHOTO: GOVIND KELUAR

### Changes in women's traditional roles

Indigenous people's relationships with the environment have been significantly altered by the restructuring of political economies, and this has had significant impacts on women. When forests were under local indigenous control, women played an important role in the forest-based production of goods, and enjoyed high status based on their knowledge of village economics and natural resources, and their roles in religious rituals with strong ties to the forest.

While women have certainly continued to use forests after state centralisation, they have often had to do so clandestinely and in brief visits. In addition, many forests were cut and replaced by mono-crop plantations that provided few of the resources that women previously controlled and utilised. With limited access to a much altered forest, women's power and value in the community has been reduced.

Poverty among adivasi and indigenous women, and thus their comparatively greater vulnerability to climate change, has now become embedded in the structural inequalities of the larger, external social, political and economic institutions that determine legal rights and ownership, and economic livelihood options.

growing visibility of women in the marketing of agricultural products, and in the wider public sphere, angers some men. Further, women's work in managing and processing plants and other non-timber forest products for sale in public markets has failed to increase their visibility as decision-makers within the community economy.

In the face of new challenges caused by global warming, a strengthened asset base and economic resiliency will be essential for women. Transforming the management and ownership entitlement of household resources, and building women's capacity, could significantly increase their productivity. Furthermore, secure access to and control over natural resources would make women more able to invest in adaptation and disaster risk reduction measures.

### Impacts of alternative energy and climate mitigation schemes

Adivasi and indigenous women may well have the smallest carbon footprint on earth. They have traditionally engaged in swidden farming (clearing fields and using them for a few years, then letting them recover), pastoralism, hunting and gathering, and trapping. Their produc-





tion of basic goods and services is often environmentally friendly, using renewable and/or recyclable resources.

Some adivasis in India, and other indigenous peoples of Thailand, China and Myanmar, continue to practice jhum or podu (rotational agriculture), with very limited or no use of petroleum-based fertilisers. As a result, they not only produce very few greenhouse gases, but the conserved forests in their domain and the sustainable use of agricultural lands provide the additional benefit of a healthy ecosystem that helps preserve biodiversity and provides a sink for global greenhouse gas emissions.

Indigenous peoples are increasingly affected, however, by mitigation initiatives taken by external actors – including forestry projects for carbon sequestration and the use of land for biofuels production and alternative energy installations, such as wind farms. Generally only limited efforts are made to include indigenous women in consultations about and then the implementation of these projects.

For example, adivasi communities in the Harda district in Madhya Pradesh, India, were neither notified nor aware of a forestry project intended to regenerate forests for carbon sequestration and storage. Women, and in some cases children, were employed on a seasonal basis to plant seeds in the forest, but were not informed of their role in the larger carbon storage project.

More disturbing for indigenous peoples is the fact that some mitigation projects, including some that secure forests or lands for carbon sinks and renewable energy projects, have been established on indigenous peoples' lands through deception, and without securing the free, prior and informed consent of the indigenous peoples.

### Women's engagement with alternative energy companies

In some instances, adivasi women have become actively engaged with projects intended to introduce cleaner energy sources on their land and, depending on the circumstances, have either fought against or collaborated with them. For example, in the state of Maharashtra in India, adivasi women emerged as leaders to prevent the use of their ancestral lands and forests for wind energy farms.

However, adivasi women have also collaborated with Suzlon, the wind energy corporation, to facilitate the company's corporate social responsibility (CSR) policies, with some of them employed in the company's local team. This collaboration is an attempt by Suzlon to understand the ethical basis of land transactions between adivasis and corporate agents and, in consultation with adivasi women and men, introduce remedial measures for any social, economic or ecological damage resulting from the renewable energy generation. The women have asked Suzlon to provide electricity and drinking water to households located within an area stretching 2-3 km around the wind farm, and to preserve their access to grazing land.

The women recommended that these assets be allocated to women through their self-help collectives, and that all future transactions and consultations be conducted with women, since 'men drank away all the

money gotten from the sale of land to Suzlon. When women get money, it is used for household needs, but when men get money it is used in drinking'.

Another recommendation was that Suzlon should provide bicycles, as part of the company's social responsibility strategy, to girls enrolled in middle or high school, as an enabling strategy for the higher education of girls.

A more universal recommendation, to benefit all members of indigenous societies equally, is for regulatory payments to be made to the communities for their provision of environmental services, including carbon sequestration through avoided deforestation and the frequently under-valued externalities of watershed and biodiversity protection. This would require assurances that funds are distributed to women and men equitably.

### Indigenous women's stated priorities for reducing their vulnerability to climate change:

- Women's unmediated ownership and control rights to land, credit, housing and livestock (i.e. not through the household or its head);
- Equal participation of women in community affairs, in management of 'the commons' and in decision-making related to developing livelihoods and obtaining financing for adaptation strategies;
- Access to markets and marketing knowledge to enhance trade in their agricultural produce and non-timber forest products and to avoid being cheated and exploited by outside traders;
- Capacity-building and training in alternative livelihoods;
- South-South sharing of information on how women and men in other areas are managing their livelihoods and adapting to environmental stressors;
- Access to affordable and collateral-free credit;
- Crop diversification, with the introduction of flood and drought resistant varieties;
- Extension information on sustainable use of manure, pesticides and irrigation;
- Flood protection shelters to store their assets, seeds, fodder and food;
- Easier access to healthcare services, doctors, pharmacists and veterinarians.

For the complete study, go to

[www.unifem.org/attachments/products/adivasi\\_women\\_engaging\\_with\\_climate\\_change\\_1.pdf](http://www.unifem.org/attachments/products/adivasi_women_engaging_with_climate_change_1.pdf)



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the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Bangkok. At AIT, Dr Kelkar founded the graduate programme in Gender Development Studies and also the *Gender, Technology and Development Journal*, published by SAGE, India. She has extensively worked on gender and energy transition in rural Asia.





So far, concerns about gender equality have not been adequately addressed in connection with the climate change treaty and the mechanisms meant to catalyse investments in clean energy technologies. Nevertheless, there are still potential opportunities for women to use these mechanisms to obtain access to energy technologies that would otherwise be beyond their reach. Additional efforts are needed to ensure that women, and women's projects, are able to access and benefit from these climate-related processes and agreements.

GAIL KARLSSON

# Can Climate Funds Improve Women's Access to Sustainable Energy?

Efforts are being made to incorporate gender equity considerations in the allocation of the \$6 billion Climate Investment Funds managed by the World Bank and the regional multilateral development banks, as well as in the new multi-billion dollar funding for climate adaptation promised in the 2009 Copenhagen Accord.

These climate-related funds could be tapped for rural energy access projects that would reduce greenhouse gas emissions and at the same time support 'green' economic development, contribute to the empowerment of women as energy entrepreneurs and promote improved community resilience to the impacts of climate change.

Members of the Global Gender and Climate Alliance have pressed for gender sensitivity throughout the UNFCCC processes, including in the administration of new climate funds. In November 2008, the Global Gender and Climate Alliance joined in the 'Manila Declaration for Global Action on Gender in Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction', which emphasised the roles of women as potentially powerful leaders in climate change mitigation and adaptation, and in disaster risk reduction, and specifically called on the governments that are parties to the UNFCCC to ensure that market-based mechanisms, such as the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and other carbon trading funds and credits, are made equally accessible to men and women: *'Thus, the CDM should fund projects that enhance energy efficiency and make renewable energy technologies available and affordable to women for household needs, economic activities and socioeconomic mobility'*.

However, so far, the Clean Development Mechanism has been little applied to the sort of energy projects that

women's groups are most likely to be involved in. These projects are generally too small, and the transactions costs too high, for them to benefit from the CDM's certified emission reduction programme.

According to a 2006 FAO report on gender and climate change: 'It is generally agreed that the highest potential of the CDM to combine poverty alleviation with greenhouse gas abatement; in brief the 'win-win-win projects' are small-scale, off-grid projects in micro-hydro and biomass energy generation and small-scale afforestation and reforestation projects. However, the international process to register an emission reduction project as a CDM project is cumbersome and costly.' Although there are simplified procedures and lower fees for small projects, most of the CDM projects approved so far have been relatively large projects in the larger developing countries.

Women in developing countries are generally unfamiliar with the possibilities of accessing climate-related funds and, even when women organisations do try to access international funds, the legal language and requirements are very complex. Often they do not have the ability or time (which can be one or two years) to fully comply with the requirements set for qualifying for certified emission reduction credits under the CDM.

Nevertheless, some women's organisations are considering how to take advantage of options allowing for the aggregation or 'bundling' of small clean energy projects. The Grameen Shakti programme in Bangladesh is already bundling small projects in rural areas involving, for example, the installation of solar panels and the training of female engineers as installers.







*Improved baking oven in Senegal. This oven is a good example of a low-emission energy technology.*

There are also discussions about whether a special climate fund is needed to support women's access to cleaner energy systems and equipment. A new proposal by the UNDP Gender Team in the Bureau for Policy Development would establish a Women's Green Business Initiative to channel funding and resources, and provide capacity building and training, for women's enterprises related to climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience.

There are many types of small-scale off-grid distributed energy systems that qualify as 'green technologies' and could be used to provide electricity or alternative fuels in rural areas of developing countries. Renewable energy options such as wind, solar and small hydro could be used to provide low-emission electricity or battery-charging services, either as alternatives or supplements to current diesel generators. They could also provide motive power for essential equipment such as water pumps and grain mills that would relieve women from arduous and time-consuming chores and free up their time for other types of activities.

The small-scale production of biofuels from plant products and waste materials may also offer new opportunities for women and communities to gain access to energy without adding to global carbon dioxide emissions.

Women's traditional uses of forests for sustainable livelihoods - gathering food, medicines and productive materials - may also come to be seen as more valuable because these activities are compatible with the preservation of forests as carbon sinks, and as refuges for conserving biological resources.

In order to become engaged in exploring these possibilities, there is a tremendous need for targeted training programmes for women in technical skills, business management and financing options to support their involvement in renewable energy business opportunities.

Meanwhile, the Gender and Climate Change Network has proposed that 20% of all donor funds related to the UNFCCC be earmarked for activities and projects explicitly addressing women, and designed and implemented by women and/or gender experts.

At the UN Climate Summit in Copenhagen, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton announced that the United States would work with other countries to mobilise \$30 billion over the next three years, and \$100 billion a year by 2020, to address the climate needs of developing countries. At the March 2010 session of the Commission on the Status of Women, Clinton specifically noted that: 'women in developing countries will be particularly hard hit, because as all of the changes of weather go on to produce more drought conditions and more storms and more floods, the women will have to work even harder to produce food and walk even farther to find water safe for drinking. ... So we believe we must increase women's access to adaptation and mitigation technologies and programs so they can protect their families and help us all meet this global challenge.'

Nevertheless, when UN Secretary-General Ban con-





vened a High-level Advisory Group on Climate Change Financing to study the potential sources of funding for financing mitigation and adaptation activities in developing countries, there were initially no women in the group. Subsequently, after protests by women's organisations, one woman was appointed: France's Finance Minister, Christine Lagarde. The initial recommendations of the Advisory Group will be presented before the next UNFCCC negotiating session in June 2010.

It is important to continue to urge the Secretary-General and member states to include more women in high-level decision-making positions on climate finance. Although there will be specialised committees advising the Advisory Group that can receive input from women experts on the financing issues, it is important to have women's perspectives represented directly within the Advisory Group.

ENERGIA is collaborating with partners in the Global Gender and Climate Alliance, which includes UN agencies as well as non-government organisations, to ensure that climate funds and financing mechanisms are made equally accessible to men and women, and support projects that make renewable energy technologies available and affordable to women for household needs, economic activities and socioeconomic mobility. Participatory processes that actively involve women are needed at the international level, in negotiating sessions, as well as at

the national and local levels, in the design, selection and implementation of renewable energy projects to address climate change.

#### **Gender and Climate Change Finance Links**

- Manila Declaration  
[www.wedo.org/wp-content/uploads/manila-declaration-for-global-action-on-gender-in-climate-change-and-disaster-risk-reduction.pdf](http://www.wedo.org/wp-content/uploads/manila-declaration-for-global-action-on-gender-in-climate-change-and-disaster-risk-reduction.pdf)
- Gender: The Missing Component of the Response to Climate Change  
[www.fao.org/sd/dim\\_pe1/docs/pe1\\_051001d1\\_en.pdf](http://www.fao.org/sd/dim_pe1/docs/pe1_051001d1_en.pdf)
- Financing that Makes a Difference  
[www.wedo.org/wp-content/uploads/climateconnections\\_5\\_finance.pdf](http://www.wedo.org/wp-content/uploads/climateconnections_5_finance.pdf)
- Gender and Climate Change Finance: A Case Study from the Philippines  
[www.wedo.org/learn/campaigns/climatechange/new-climate-change-case-study](http://www.wedo.org/learn/campaigns/climatechange/new-climate-change-case-study)
- Gender and Climate Finance: Double Mainstreaming for Sustainable Development  
[www.boell.org/web/52-318.html](http://www.boell.org/web/52-318.html)
- Open Letter to the Secretary-General on the High-level Advisory Group on Climate Change Financing  
[www.wedo.org/wp-content/uploads/Open-Letter-to-UN-SG4.pdf](http://www.wedo.org/wp-content/uploads/Open-Letter-to-UN-SG4.pdf)

Gail's bio information can be found with this issue's Editorial.

*Women selling produce at a local market, Arusha Region Tanzania.*







# Clean Development Mechanism Funding: Issues in the Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia Region



The Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) was set up under Article 12 of the Kyoto Protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. It allows a country with an emission reduction or limitation commitment under the Protocol to satisfy its obligations through emission-reduction projects established in developing countries. It is meant to provide funding for sustainable development in developing countries, as well as reducing overall global greenhouse gas emissions but, to date, it has been of little help to communities in developing and emerging countries seeking to improve their energy services.

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WECF and *atmosfair* have looked at the potential for CDM projects in the Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) region, and have made recommendations on improving CDM accessibility for household and community level energy projects, which could provide more benefits for women.

### **Introduction to the region's energy and climate issues**

Energy supply is a problem throughout the EECCA region, and especially in rural areas. Households rely to a large extent on fossil fuels or biomass (including dried dung, shrubs and firewood), but they also use all kinds of waste as fuel, including plastics. This has a severe impact on the environment, contributing considerably to deforestation and land degradation, which in turn adversely affects the quality of life in the villages.

Air pollution created by burning plastics, tar and other types of fuel leads to serious health problems, includ-

ing respiratory illnesses, with women and children being the ones most affected by indoor pollution. In 2004, the World Health Organization reported (in its Indoor Thematic Briefing 2) that 21,000 people each year die of indoor air pollution in the EECCA region. At the same time, it is a major challenge to provide warmth during the cold winters, and daily routines such as cooking and heating water for baths or laundry put a stress on both the environment and the villagers' budgets, as energy prices have risen rapidly.

The EECCA region is already affected by climatic changes, including melting glaciers and desertification, and water is becoming less available. Human behaviour is contributing to these impacts.

### **Women's roles**

Women bear the brunt of the difficulties in everyday life in this region. Large scale labour migration of men due to a lack of local income-generating opportunities further contributes to this effect. Village people see few



Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF) was created in 1994, following the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, to give women a stronger voice in sustainable development and environmental policy, with the aim of balancing environmental, health and economic perspectives. WECF works for a healthy environment for all.

Today, WECF is a network of 100 women's

and environmental organisations in 40 countries. Our network spans Western Europe and the EECCA (Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia) region. WECF has three offices: in the Netherlands, Germany and France.

WECF's project work brings safe ecological solutions to local problems in the areas of chemicals, sanitation, energy

and food production. Issues such as poverty reduction, public participation, environmental rights and gender equality are cross-cutting. Our policy work at the national, European, UN and international levels brings women's perspectives to policymakers. WECF has consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

[www.wecf.de](http://www.wecf.de)





opportunities for development in their own region. At the same time, women's perspectives are not adequately reflected in state policies and international projects, or in the hierarchical village power structures and religious institutions that can present barriers to development.

WECF focuses on identifying women's and men's specific knowledge and skills in the production, maintenance and use of sustainable energy resources and technologies. It tries to build on the existing skills of women and to decrease their time burdens and workloads. Saving money on energy means more income available for other needs. Improved energy supplies mean better living and working conditions and improved health, especially for women and children with reduced indoor pollution. However, as of now, energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies are not well understood and, under current conditions, neither are they easily affordable.

#### **Current deficiencies of the Clean Development Mechanism**

Limited access to clean energy severely restricts opportunities for socially and environmentally sound economic development for poor communities in developing and emerging countries. Technologies such as energy efficient stoves and solar collectors have a great potential to combine poverty reduction and climate change mitigation, and the CDM could provide funding to make these technologies more widely available, if it were more accessible for small projects.

Although the methodology for calculating carbon credits from greater efficiency in traditional stoves has been improved and simplified,<sup>1</sup> there are still important constraints for household and community projects under the CDM. As carbon credits are obtained only after a project has become operational, upfront funding is still needed for the implementation of these projects, and poor communities have little access to appropriate funding sources. At the same time, CDM transaction costs are high, particularly for small projects: project validation costs alone surpass €15,000 (and even €50,000 with programmes of activities that bundle a number of similar projects). Finally, the approval procedure is still too bureaucratic and time-consuming to be practicable for poor communities.

WECF and its partners, in co-operation with atmosfair, are assessing the feasibility of CDM projects linked to energy-efficient stoves and other decentralised sustainable energy technologies in the Caucasus and Central Asia. Due to climatic conditions, the demand for

such technologies is high, especially for stoves for heating and cooking.<sup>2</sup> Based on its objectives, we believe that the CDM should be a funding option for such projects. In combination with microfinance, the CDM could be used to capitalise microfinance funds and reduce interest rates.

#### **Recommendations for making CDM accessible for pro-poor sustainable development and climate mitigation**

We recommend the following improvements to the CDM that should apply to household and community-level projects in general:

- A** Creation of a funding mechanism for such projects which would:
  - Provide grants for CDM project development and transaction costs, including validation of actual emission reductions;
  - Grant upfront funding for project implementation as a soft loan to be repaid out of funds received for Certified Emission Reductions (CERS);
  - Buy CERS from such projects at high fixed prices.
- B** Simplified approval procedures for household and community-based projects.
- C** A general extension to the environmental and social criteria defined in the CDM Gold Standard,<sup>3</sup> so that consultations with stakeholders and the equal participation of women and men are required, along with a gender-sensitive approach that takes into account the different cultures, mentalities and ways of life in the CDM host countries.

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#### **NOTES**

- <sup>1</sup> 'Energy Efficiency Measures in Thermal Applications of Non-Renewable Biomass' (<http://cdm.unfccc.int/methodologies/SSCmethodologies/ap-proved.html>). In December 2009, the method for calculating the fraction of non-renewable biomass was simplified and a default value for the efficiency of traditional stoves was introduced.
- <sup>2</sup> This study is supported in the framework of the International Climate Protection Initiative (ICI) based on a decision by the German Parliament, and by the Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Nuclear Safety.
- <sup>3</sup> See [www.cdmgoldstandard.org](http://www.cdmgoldstandard.org); the Gold Standard Foundation registers projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions in ways that contribute to sustainable development and certifies their carbon credits for sale on both compliance and voluntary offset markets.





## Welcome to the New ENERGIA Website

### National gender and energy network websites launched

ENERGIA warmly encourages you to visit its new website. The website has been completely revised, with the objectives of making the information more easily accessible, and making the website more compatible with Web2.0 tools and developments. An important change in the new website structure is that the regional networks now have their own websites, where they can post updates on their activities, publications and news.

The ENERGIA International website will continue to serve as a portal to these regional activities and provide updates on international activities by the network. Our hope is that we will be able to better update you on the work we are doing. Visit us at:

[www.energia.org](http://www.energia.org)

### World Bank Seeking Input on Future Energy Strategy

The World Bank Group has launched consultations to gather inputs for a new energy sector strategy, which is expected to be completed in early 2011. The consultations are part of a broader effort to gather inputs from a wide range of perspectives on how the World Bank Group can best help developing countries improve the access to and reliability of energy while helping to facilitate a shift onto a more environmentally sustainable energy development path. In addition to collecting

comments online, the World Bank Group is holding a series of meetings, videoconferences and other events in the first phase of consultations from February 2010 to June 2010. The collected feedback will be used to inform the drafting of a new energy strategy.

For more information, visit:

[go.worldbank.org/77WVBAHMEo](http://go.worldbank.org/77WVBAHMEo)

### SNV's online renewable energy publications library

This library hosts a wide range of publications related to the following renewable energy fields: domestic biogas, biofuels and improved water mills.

This knowledge database offers:

- An extensive choice of domestic biogas reports from around the world;
- An ability to easily locate desired documents using field topics, and by filtering geographically by continent/ country and/or by year of publication;
- The option of viewing document summaries before downloading;
- A search function to find relevant documents;
- Easy sharing of documents through email and social networks.

Visit the library at: [www.snvworld.org/en/Pages/re-Publications.aspx](http://www.snvworld.org/en/Pages/re-Publications.aspx)

### GTZ Household Energy Publications

GTZ has initiated a webpage where you can find publications on recent GTZ energy projects. Brochures, books and articles provide information on cooking energy. Studies and manuals show the impact of projects and offer information on impact assessment, stove design and the economics of energy-efficient stoves.

View the publications at:

[www.gtz.de/en/themen/umwelt-infrastruktur/energie/20674.htm](http://www.gtz.de/en/themen/umwelt-infrastruktur/energie/20674.htm)

### Gender-based interventions by ESMAP

Under ESMAP's Strategic Business Plan 2008-2013, the Gender & Energy

Development Strategies (GEDS) Technical Assistance Program has made progress in 2010. GEDS is building on the significant gender-sensitive work that has already been carried out in the energy sector and connecting with the energy task team leaders (TTLS) and regional activities that have strategic potential for including gender-based interventions. As a first step towards achieving the objectives of the GEDS programme, that is, to integrate gender equity considerations into the policies, strategies and programmes of client countries, ESMAP has made links with existing gender and infrastructure experts at the World Bank.

The GEDS programme in 2010 will include:

- assessing the gender-based impact of energy service provision;
- enhancing women's economic opportunities in energy SME development;
- highlighting the gender dimension in climate change mitigation and adaptation;
- knowledge generation, dissemination and outreach;
- capacity building in government counterparts and facilitating counterpart partnership.

Read more at:

[www.esmap.org/news/news.asp?id=106](http://www.esmap.org/news/news.asp?id=106)

